

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.116, and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. The present Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated May 5, 2004. Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 17 and 18.

By the present Amendment, the subject matter of claim 17 has been added to its parent claim 1. In light of the indication of allowable subject matter with regard to claim 17 if rewritten into independent form, allowance of amended claim 1, which now represents claim 17 rewritten into independent form, is respectfully requested, together with its dependent claim 18 (which has been revised to depend from claim 1 rather than from claim 17).

In addition, allowance of independent claims 2, 6, and 11, and their respective dependent claims, is also respectfully requested for the following reasons. Specifically, each of these claims 2, 6 and 11 has been rewritten to incorporate substantially the same subject matter found in claim 17, thereby defining substantially the same features found in amended claim 1.

For example, comparing amended claim 2 with amended claim 1, it can be seen that both claims define a plurality of double support beams with lines that connect the probes to the secondary electrodes. Also, in each case, the claims include the feature that the lines between the probes and the secondary electrodes (e.g. noting that Fig. 2(a) shows such a line 5b connecting the probe 5a with the secondary electrode 5c through the through-hole 4a), as found in claim 17 (indicated as containing allowable subject matter in the Office Action). Also, claim 2, like claim

1, includes the feature of the lines being formed on the faces of the beams when the probes are formed (again, taken from claim 17). As such, claim 2, like claim 1, contains the same features from claim 17 which have now been added to claim 1. The same is true for the other independent claims 6 and 11, each of which has been amended to incorporate the same subject matter from claim 17.

The only difference between the recitations of claim 1 and the other independent claims 2, 6 and 11 is that claim 1 particularly defines first lines (such as 5b in Fig. 2(a)) connecting the probes to the secondary electrodes and second lines connecting the beams to the support portions. Claim 2, on the other hand, provides a definition of lines that connect the probes to the secondary electrodes (corresponding to the first lines of claim 1) and further notes that the lines extend "both sides of one of said probes on a face of said beam where said probe is formed." In other words, claim 2 defines the same concept of the lines extending from both sides of the probes, that is, towards the secondary electrodes and towards the support portion (such as shown in the right hand side of Fig. 2(a)), but does not define these different portions of the lines as "first lines" and second lines." In a similar manner, claim 6 defines "wiring lines" which also connect probes to the secondary electrodes (corresponding to the "first lines" in claim 1) and further defines that these lines extend to two support portions at both ends of the beam (thus also covering the subject matter of the "second lines" of claim 1). Claim 11 provides the same language as claim 6 in this regard.

As such, although the language of 2, 6 and 11 differ slightly from the language of claim 1 in terms of not using "first lines" and "second lines", in each case these claims 2, 6 and 11 clearly define a line that connects the probes to the secondary

electrodes through a through-hole (thus corresponding to the "first lines" of amended claim 1) as well as the concept of the lines either extend to the other side of the probes (claim 2) or actually extend to the support portions (claims 6 and 11). As such, it is respectfully submitted that the combinations defined in these independent claims 2, 6 and 11 also clearly define over the cited prior art for the same reasons that the combination of claims 1 and 17 do. Therefore, allowance of the independent claims 2, 6 and 11 over the cited prior art by virtue of the incorporation of the subject matter of claim 17 into each of these claims is also respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested, notwithstanding the finality of the Office Action. With regard to the amendment of claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 17, and the amending of claim 18 to depend on the amended claim 1, it is noted that this amendment simply follows the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter set forth in the Office Action. With regard to this, it is noted that 37 CFR § 1.116 authorizes the entry of an Amendment when the Amendment adopts the Examiner's suggestions for allowable subject matter, notwithstanding the finality of the Office Action.

With regard to the amending of claims 2, 6 and 11, it is respectfully submitted that this actually also essentially adopts the Examiner's suggestion for rendering the application in condition for allowance by virtue of incorporating the same subject matter of claim 17 into each of these independent claims 2, 6 and 11. The only difference between the amending of these independent claims and the amending of independent claim 1 is that the subject matter from claim 17 has been slightly amended to properly correlate with the language regarding the lines used in each of the claims 2, 6 and 11. However, as noted above, this does not substantially change

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the substance of the subject matter of claim 17 (indicated to be allowable), and, as such, should not require further search or substantial further consideration on the part of the Examiner. Therefore, entry of this Amendment and allowance of each of the independent claims 1, 2, 6, and 11, as well as their respective dependent claims, is respectfully requested.

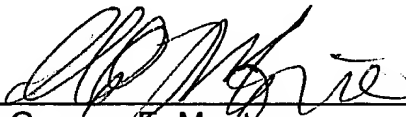
If the Examiner believes that there are any other points which may be clarified or otherwise disposed of either by telephone discussion or by personal interview, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Docket No. 501.40205X00), and please credit any excess fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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